

Newsletter - Spring 2022
The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

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Dear Readers and Benefactors,

May 10 marked the last day of the academic year. For the Sisters, this last week of school launched a marathon of events beginning with three days of rigorous student examinations. After final exams, the faculty prepped for the school's concert and graduation. Following these school events, the Sisters had their Profession and Vestition ceremonies; two Sisters made their Profession and three novices received the habit. The professed Sisters then enjoyed visiting with their families at Camp Geneva for a few days. Finally, the Sisters made their annual retreat, a most welcome week of recollection and silence.

We were able to live-stream this year's concert and graduation ceremony for our online students that could not attend the event in Tampa. (If you missed our live stream, you can find videos of the performances on our YouTube channel.) This end-of-year school concert and graduation is a testament to the sacrifices parents have made over the years to give their children the opportunity of a truly Catholic education. This past year alone, four families left their homes, relatives, and jobs in order to relocate to Brooksville and send their children to QAS Academy for the 2021-2022 academic year. Such devotion and sacrifice for the spiritual welfare of one's children is most edifying to witness. A Catholic education empowers young adults to arrive at that level of virtue and self-discipline which will set them afire with a love for goodness and truth, preparing them to become the leaders of tomorrow. In the words of St. Catherine of Siena, "Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire."

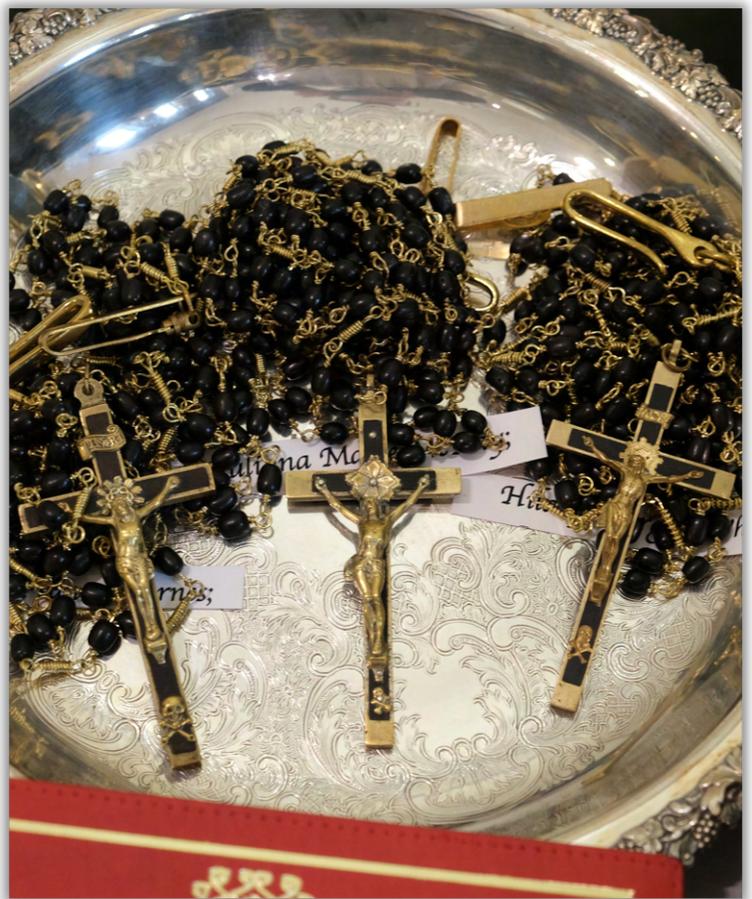
The saints well knew the value of education. St. John Vianney encountered great obstacles in achieving a Catholic education, having been born three years before the outbreak of the French Revolution. He understood that an excellent Catholic education was worth almost any sacrifice. He founded two schools and endowed several others. The saint sacrificed all his property and his entire inheritance to build them and would go on begging tours to sustain them. Once a mother said to him, "I have now spent all I own on providing a good education for my children; all I have left is my house." The Saint's reply was swift and a little shocking. "Sell it," he encouraged her, "and complete your work." That led her to reassess her priorities and surpass her previous limits of maternal love. She sold the house. But by God's Providence, she did not lose her home; rather because of her willingness to sacrifice, she obtained the means necessary to educate her children.

A graduate of the Class of '22 kneels to receive her diploma. Two of our graduates will be joining the convent this August, and two wish to begin a degree program in order to join the lay staff at QAS Academy.



Vestition Ceremony

Receiving the Habit



"I choose the crown of thorns."



Music Production

In response to many requests, the Sisters will be recording sacred chant to be made available on streaming services. Since the academic year leaves no time for such a project, we hope to raise funds for a recording company to head this production.

Visit our donation page to see how you can help!



First Communicant Preparation

The First Communicants attend daily Catechism during the academic year. This class deepens their knowledge of the Catholic Faith, especially of the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Confession. During this year of study, the students also apply themselves to the practice of the virtues in order to prepare for these great sacraments.

The Sisters take a group photo after the Vestition ceremony. Please continue your prayers for vocations. This August, six candidates will be joining the Novitiate.

